

# "YOU" ARE THE JUDGE

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*Congratulations on becoming a judge.* You may not have applied for an A.P. A. or A.B.A. license but believe it or not you are the most important judge there is. Every time you pick up a Brahma, every time you consult your Standard, you are judging your birds. What will I keep, what will I breed, to what and why? It's your skill at judging that determines what your flock will look like in a few years.

Another aspect of judging is what you will show, and how you will present it to a professional judge who has been retained for a show? Let's not pick out several birds the day of the show, stuff them into an orange crate and expect a judge to respect you, anymore than he would your birds.

A bird expected to win must have some advanced care. The conditioning of a bird starts with its health. This is of prime importance to you, as well as the fellow whose bird is in the next cage. Next in order of importance is a clean bird and one free of lice. No judge appreciates an arm full of lice no matter how much you might cherish them. Mites and lice make a bird fidgety and uncomfortable, and does nothing to enhance the judges disposition. Another helpful hint in conditioning a bird for show, would be to keep it in a cage for a week or so to get it used to confinement. The professional judge has his hands full in handling two or three hundred birds or more in the course of a day's judging. Having to do battle with an unruly cockerel is enough to make an average man throw up his hands in disgust.

At this point *you as a judge* are ready to challenge your neighbors' skills at the show, but for heaven sakes, remember your first concern is with a Breed and not just the variety. The type makes the breed, the color makes the variety.

The first thought of a judge is outline and type. An example is the Brahma, whose Columbian pattern is most important but the Columbian pattern must be on a "Brahma type" or you would wind up with a Columbian "Wyandotte" or "Rock". All things being equal a parti-colored bird would win over a solid color, but remember when you pick out your show bird, it must be your best TYPE.

My subject matter is one that could be continued at great length, but space not permitting, I will conclude with this comment. Don't pass judgment on a judges efforts until you have talked to him, and asked for the reason he placed them as he did. Remember he had them out of the cage, you didn't. Most judges enjoy your interest and are only to glad to point out faults that you may have missed. Please! Don't condemn a judge until he has had a fair chance.

**Remember, you are a judge too.**